



September 23, 1991

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT (RCRA)

RCRA UPDATE PACIFIC WOOD TREATING CORPORATION RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON

Pacific Wood Treating (PWT) has agreed to clean up contamination at the PWT wood treatment facility in Ridgefield, Washington under the terms of a voluntary "Consent Order" with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). PWT will be conducting the cleanup activities under the supervision of EPA.

Background

Since 1964, PWT has operated a wood treatment facility in Ridgefield, Washington. The facility borders Lake River on the west, the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge on the north, and the town of Ridgefield on the south and east.

Over the years, wood products have been treated with a variety of wood preservatives including pentachlorophenol (PCP), creosote, copper naphthanate, and CCA (a copper, chromium, and arsenic mixture). Releases of these substances have occurred due to spills, drippage, leakage and groundwater runoff. A groundwater study at the PWT facility showed that PCP was present in groundwater beneath the site at levels above the current federal drinking water standards. Other contaminants detected in the groundwater included benzene, trichlorethene, tetrachloroethane, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. EPA conducted an assessment of the facility in 1990.

Is there any current danger to human health or the environment?

EPA has not identified any immediate danger to human health or the environment posed by PWT. Although groundwater beneath the site is contaminated, the extent of migration of this contamination cannot be determined from currently available data. As additional information becomes available during the studies outlined below, EPA will continually reevaluate the potential risks to human health and the environment and take steps to address such risks if necessary.



The Consent Order

PWT has voluntarily entered into a "Consent Order" with EPA. Under the terms of the Order, PWT will take actions to address existing contamination and to ensure that future contamination does not occur.

The Order became effective on September 21, 1991. Among other things, it requires PWT to:

- * Describe all relevant geologic, hydrogeologic and structural features and characteristics of the Site.
- * Determine possible exposure pathways for potential contaminants both on and off the Site.
- * Determine whether the levels of hazardous substances present in the soils and groundwater at the PWT facility pose unacceptable risks to public health or welfare or the environment.
- * Prepare a "Final Site Characterization Report" which describes in detail the nature and extent of any release or threat of release of any hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or hazardous wastes.
- * Implement any necessary corrective measures to minimize future releases of hazardous substances and wastes.

PWT has hired the environmental consulting firm of Hart Crowser to perform the required studies and cleanup activities. All work on the site will be conducted in accordance with EPA approved work plans.

Public involvement

Facts sheets such as this will be prepared periodically to keep the public informed of progress on the site.

Information repositories are being established at two locations. The repositories will contain documents such as the Consent Order, Work Plans, Study Reports and Fact Sheets.

The information repositories are located at:

Vancouver Public Library

ATT: Julie Jolly
1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA

Ridgefield City Hall

ATT: Claudia Schobert
230 Pioneer
Ridgefield, WA 98642

For more information, contact:

Sylvia Burges
EPA Project Coordinator
1200 6th Avenue, HW-104
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-1254

Dan Phalen
EPA Community Relations
1200 6th Avenue, HW-117
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-6709

Or call toll-free:
1-800-424-4EPA

* * * * *

Yes, I would like my name added to the mailing list for the PWT Facility.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (Optional) _____

(Please return this form to: Dan Phalen, EPA Community Relations, HW-117, 1200 6th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101)

* * * * *